Workshop on wastewater treatment

2772. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether global as well as national experts have urged Government to set up a multi-stakeholder task force to formulate an overall strategy for effective management and treatment of wastewater which was the need of the hour;

(b) if so, whether a two-day workshop on "Wastewater Treatment; Decentralised Technologies for Effective Management" was held in New Delhi in the month of January, 2003;

(c) whether any strategy has been formulated in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) No, Sir. No suggestion from Global or National Experts to set up a multi-stakeholder task force to formulate an overall strategy for effective management and treatment of wastewater has been received by the Ministry of Water Resources.

(b) The Ministry of Water Resources is not aware of a two-day workshop on "Wastewater Treatment; Decentralised Technologies for Effective Management" held in the month of January, 2003 at New Delhi.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Water quality in India

2773. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that India ranks "120th" in a list of 122 countries for their water quality as also their ability and

commitment of improving its quality, as revealed in the World Water Development Report;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) if so, what long-term steps Government propose to adopt regarding adequacy of water supply in the country and improving its quality?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the 'United Nations World Water Development Report-Water for people, Water for Life', India has been ranked 120th among 122 selected nations in the world in terms of quality of water. Belgium is at 122th rank. The report states that the indicators like the widespread occurance of poor water quality, the diversion of water from natural aquatic eco-systems and the emerging problems with ground water recharge were noted for indications of relative water quality.

(c) Water being a State subject, water resources schemes including the schemes to overcome the shortage of water resources are formulated, planned, executed and funded by the concerned State Governments. To help the State Governments in their efforts to harness the water from natural resources and accelerate creation of irrigation potential by early completion of ongoing schemes, Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 to provide central loan assistance.

Government of India is promoting rainwater harvesting through Watershed Mangement Programme, artificial recharge of ground water rooftop rainwater harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. The Government of India also assists the State Governments by providing financial assistance under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) for rural drinking water and under Command Area Development Programme to increase efficiency in utilisation of irrigation water. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up a

Central Sector Scheme on "Studies of Recharge to Ground Water" on pilot basis.

For meeting future requirements of water, as a long term measure, National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins which will accrue benefits of drinking water supply, irrigation, hydro-power, flood control, navigation, fisheries, salinity and pollution control etc.

Several steps have been taken for improvement/restoration of quality of water bodies in the country and some of them are :

(i) Ensuring industries, located on the banks of rivers and lakes, set up the requisite pollution control facilities.

(ii) Issuance of Directives to the defaulting industries for preventing discharge to untreated waste water into water bodies.

(iii) Formulation and implementation of National River and Lake Conservation Plan for restoration of water quality of the rivers and lakes.

Management of water resources

2774. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether review has been made to evaluate the implementation of the action plan formulated for optimal and sustainable development and management of water resources of the country as envisaged in the National Water Policy, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of specific steps taken or time-bound projects launched, if any, towards development and management of water resources in an integrated manner?